Dateline February 15, 1960

The unification of Methodism's social action agencies took a giant step ahead during the past two weeks as three national church agencies took action.

Meeting in Buck Hill Falls, Pa., the Coordinating Council approved a plan for submission to the General Conference. It would unite the General Boards of Temperance, World Peace and Social and Economic Relations into one General Board of Christian Social Concerns.

The Coordinating Council version of the plan would call for one general secretary and three associate general secretaries. The general secretary would be the administrative head of the new unified board. The associates would have primary responsibility for program, developed in three divisions: Temperance and General Welfare, Peace and World Order, Human Relations and Economic Affairs.

There has been considerable debate over the administrative set up of the board in council meetings. The issue has triggered action by two other Methodist agencies.

Meeting in Washington, D. C. the Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations, coordinating agency for the three present social action boards, voted to ask the Coordinating Council to reconsider its action, naming three general secretaries instead, one for each division.

At its annual meeting a few days later the General Board of Temperance approved the "united" plan "in principle" but also took action asking that three general secretaries be elected rather than one.

Arguments for the one general secretary plan include a simplified administrative set up and a freeing of the associate general secretaries to concentrate on program development.

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Vol. 1, No. 22 Feb. 15, 1960

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Contact is issued twice each month by the General Boards of Temperance, World Peace and Social & Economic Relations of the Methodist Church.

Contact is a member of The Associated Church Press.

Editorial Offices are in the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

Advertising rates and information are available from Editorial Offices, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

Subscription Price is $3.00 per year in advance. Single copies are 35c each. Write to Service Department, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E. Washington 2, D. C. Air mail edition, $9.00 per year, U. S. only

Change of Address information should be sent with both old and new addresses to Contact Service Department, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C.

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Dateline

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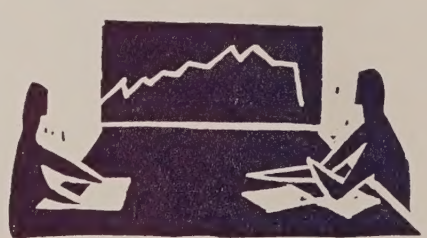
Proponents of the plan for three general secretaries point to the successful operation this quadrennium of a secretarial council made up of the general secretaries of the three boards, with rotating chairmanship. They feel that the new board would be top heavy and administration more difficult with four executives. They also argue that successful work carried on thus far by the three boards should remain under the direction of three general secretaries who can speak out strongly and influentially for the causes they represent.

In either case the council's plan calls for several joint departments which would serve all three divisions. These would include a director of communications and publication, a director of organizational administration (bookkeeping, service department, personnel, etc.) a director of educational liaison (with General Board of Education), and a legislative director.

There would also be an office maintained near the United Nations headquarters in New York City, similar to that now operating under the Board of World Peace. The office



would be conducted cooperatively with the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, Board of Missions.

Another point on which opinions have differed has been that of location. The Coordinating Council plan calls for a Washington, D. C. headquarters. The General Boards of Temperance and Social and Economic Relations have agreed, but some Peace leaders feel Chicago would be nearer the center of Methodism, making field service and literature distribution more efficient.

Proponents of the Washington, D. C. location point to the necessity of maintaining close liaison with government agencies and the Congress, the ease of acquiring information on issues, and the fact that field service would not be a great deal more expensive. At present the General Boards of World Peace and Social and Economic Relations are located in Chicago. The General Board of Temperance is in Washington, D. C.

The matter of location is not as "hot" an issue as that of administrative set up. But both points will be discussed again when the Coordinating Council meets before the General Conference, and perhaps on the General Conference floor.

Membership of the new board would total 83 persons, a little less than the total membership of the three present boards. There would be two bishops, elected by the College of Bishops in each of the church's six jurisdictions; one minister and one lay person from each 400,000 church members or major fraction thereof, elected at the six jurisdictional conferences (this would provide for 29 lay and 29 ministerial members on the basis of present church membership); three young people, two students; the chairman of the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Woman's Division of Christian Service; and nine persons to be elected at large.

The purpose of the new board:

"To lift up before the members of the church and also the secular world the Christian concern for personal, social and civic righteousness, to analyze the issues which confront the nation and the world as well as the local community and the person, and to propose Christian lines of action. . . ."

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On January 27, attorney Ervin W. Potter testified before the U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was representing the Methodist Board of World Peace, in support of S. Res. 94 to remove the self-judging (Connally) reservation affecting United States adherence to the International Court of Justice.

The self-judging reservation permits the United States to decide for itself whether a legal dispute, to which it is a party, is within the jurisdiction of the International Court. If S. Res. 94 passed, the decision of jurisdiction would be left to the court alone. The court is already expressly prohibited from taking jurisdiction over domestic questions.

Mr. Potter's principal arguments for such action were the need for forward and affirmative action in the world situation; the assumption of global leadership in creating conditions for peace; the fact that the court is authorized only to deal with *international legal* disputes; the Connally reservation hampers our own use of the court; our reservation has led to similar action by other nations; and a program of world peace through law requires United States support for the International Court.

Mr. Potter, an attorney in Salem, Oregon, is chairman of the Marion County Bar Association World Peace Through Law committee and a member of the Oregon Bar Association Committee for World Peace Through World Law. Copies of his testimony may be secured by writing senators at the Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

***Contact* readers are urged to communicate your views on S. Res. 94 to your senators. More material on this issue can be secured from the Board of World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill., and from the American Bar Association, 1155 E. 60th St., Chicago 37, Illinois.**

WORLD PEACE

Geneva negotiations continue at crisis pitch

The Geneva negotiations on ending nuclear tests continue in a crucial stage. Pressures from those who oppose any test ban or disarmament agreement have mounted.

In negotiations, the Soviets seek to reduce the number of on-site inspections for fear of espionage, while the United States wishes to increase the number of inspections for fear that the Russians may violate their agreement and conduct secret tests.

What are the risks?

If agreement is to be reached on halting nuclear tests with international inspection, the Soviets and the United States will have to accept the risks of espionage that may be involved. There is also the possibility that violations might go undetected.

Absolute security being unattainable in today's world, the choice is between risks, rather than between risk on the one hand and no risk on the other. Surely, the risks involved in the failure of negotiations with continued testing and arming are far greater than the risks inherent in a carefully negotiated agreement with international inspection.

Some action proposals

(1) Write a personal letter to President Eisenhower expressing your own ideas after reading the material contained in this article, in the February 1 issue of *Contact*, and other sources.

(2) Write a letter to the editor of your local paper on this vital issue.

(3) Urge community and church groups and organizational leaders in your community to study this material so they may become informed and help shape government policy.

(4) Write letters on this subject to your two senators who will have to vote on ratifying any test ban treaty.

A fifth grader looks at the atom bomb

This is a class composition written for the fifth grade at St. Barnabas School, Chicago, Ill., by Walter Porzel, age 10. Walter was born in August, 1948, at Sandia Base, Albuquer-

que, N. M. His father, Francis B. Porzel, now senior scientific adviser at Armour Research Foundation, directed many series of nuclear blast tests at Nevada and Eniwetok.

In White Sand, N. M., where Hopi Indians lived in peace, was born the power with no mercy. By the power with no mercy I mean the atom bomb.

If this power is not harnessed, the sun shall spread its light over the dead, not living. Cool breezes shall blow, but no one shall breathe them. May flowers will not bloom their beauty. Precious raindrops shall pour for naught. The color of the pure streams shall change to red. Children shall not laugh. People will not pray to God. There will be no love between mother and child.

God made light to help mankind, not to destroy him. They say the bomb helps us, but I think it has put a thorn in the side of man. The atom may be the key to the future, but God did not make it to be the key to destruction.

by *Daniel E. Taylor*

The "come-back" trail is hard and slippery. For the old actor yearning for another curtain-call. Or, the tired boxer needing another buck. For a nation that once was a Great Nation. For France in 1960.

So De Gaulle mandates no missile bases unless control shifts, also. French negotiators work as leaders, not partners, in the European Common Market. France must make and test the bomb to prove she is a Big Boy. And entitled to sit in the front row among the Great Powers at the summit.

*Impressions of my last two sum-*mers in France include:

. . . their dismay at the economic recovery of the loser, Germany, compared to the winner and ally, France.

. . . their determination not to lose material prosperity no matter what else goes by the boards. (Strangely like Americans.)

. . . their indecision either to win or end the war in Algeria.

. . . too much influence from both the communist left and the neo-fascist right, squeezing centralist elements.

We wish De Gaulle well in trying to mold a moderate position against both types of extremists especially in Algeria. We hope that he can maintain strong control without final steps into dictatorship.

Meanwhile, tense fronts face each other—armed and angry. There is always grave danger in such hours. There is more risk while guerrillas snipe, security police round up civilians, terrorists toss bombs, patrols clash—that the next rifle fire may suddenly erupt into full-scale war. Peace exists only in degrees while pistols bark the hazards increase that cannons may roar.

Meanwhile, a nation seeks a way back up the glory trail. An old tiger making a last bid is sometimes more dangerous than a lusty yearling. Vive la gloire!

A *Contact* editor reports on the Cuba situation

Cuba is passing through a very critical stage in respect to the internal forces shaping its future and its relations with the United States. The events of the next few months will probably decide the success or failure of the Castro administration. A brief visit to Cuba by the writer in January led to these and other observations, some of which are necessarily tentative.

Fidel Castro has the overwhelming and rather enthusiastic support of the Cuban people. After more than three decades of dictatorship interspersed with two attempts at democracy that ended sadly, Cubans believe they now have a government of honest men who genuinely seek the welfare of the common people.

It is generally accepted that the Batista regime looted Cuba of more than two billion dollars and killed more than 10,000 persons. It is against this recent history, of which the American press told us little, that we must assess the execution by the Castro forces of several hundred men charged with crimes against the Cuban people.

Economic reform program

The sweeping social and economic reforms being undertaken are drastic, but needed, in the opinion of most of the people. Figures are cited often to show that under Batista five per cent of the people owned fifty per cent of the land. Furthermore, this land often was not used effectively or fruitfully and the result was the perpetuation of rural stagnation and poverty.

The proposed cooperative farms, more intensive cultivation of land, an increase in food production, and employment for underemployed rural workers are worthy goals. Even the much criticized land reform program has much to recommend it. Only those holdings over 1,675 acres per owner are confiscated. In some areas individual owners are allowed to keep twice as much.

Whether the planning and administration of this program can match its worthy goals remains to be seen. This is a most difficult undertaking for a new government which has overthrown a corrupt and oppressive regime and must depend on enthusiastic but often inexperienced and untrained leadership.

New spirit among people

On every hand, one sees evidences of constructive activity by the government. Roads are being repaired, hospitals completed and opened, homes for children established, farm land developed, and housing projects erected. At the same time, more employment has been provided, schools expanded, rents lowered, and prices reduced to rural consumers. To this, the people have responded; homes are being newly painted, volunteers work in children's homes, and an atmosphere of hope prevails.

To be sure, not all Cubans support the reform program. And a larger

number are concerned about the way in which some reforms are being put in effect.

Vast amounts of land have already been "intervened" by the government, but the former owners have not received the bonds promised in payment. The delay in preparing these is understandable, but not the fact that no receipts or written acknowledgements have been given for either land or cattle taken.

The land now under government control is to be organized into cooperatives. As yet, there is no sign of these and the state is operating the ranches and farms seized. Rural retailing in Cuba has been inefficient with exorbitant "markups" on consumer goods. "People's stores" established to correct this are, at present, government operated and compete with rural private stores or buy them out at a low price.

The restriction of imports requiring foreign exchange, though needed because of Cuba's poor fiscal position, is so drastic that many importers and city department stores are being seriously affected. Sugar cane land, previously not to be taken by the government until after the harvest, is now being "intervened." Armed soldiers and civilians guard the fields at night, for standing cane has been burned occasionally by opponents of Castro and his reforms.

The combination of new political leadership, sweeping economic reforms, large government expenditures, and uncertain relations with the United States have combined to discourage the investment of new private capital. This, coupled with a sharp decline in tourist trade, has led to a lack of initiative and expansion in the private sector of economy.

A rather complete revision of the school system is under way. A more modern approach to education is provided in the new plans, which private as well as public schools must follow. Of concern to some educators are present efforts to introduce voluntary military training into high schools generally. Add to this the organization of many civilians into units of a "people's militia" and one sees a nation fearful of invasion by counter-revolutionary forces seeking military support from the people.

Which way Cuba

The question which engages the interest of many Americans and, in the writer's opinion, the concern of a growing minority of Cubans, is the economic and political direction in

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(continued from page 5)

which Fidel Castro and those around him are taking their country. One dare not predict the course of events in a situation as shifting as that in Cuba, where one man has the power and popular support to change policies overnight.

But there are developments which worry some well-informed Cubans who supported the revolution wholeheartedly and favor the reform program. One is the manner in which some of the reforms are being carried out. Another is the replacement of "moderates" in the government by persons holding more extreme views, some allegedly with records of Communist activity. Then there is the rather detailed and extensive supervision of all schools in the educational reform program, plus an emphasis on military training which reaches into the schools and includes certain "youth patrol" activities.

Fidel Castro has indicated that his government will accept the support and cooperation of communists and non-communists alike. In the opinion of many, the records of certain leaders close to him indicate definite communist orientation.

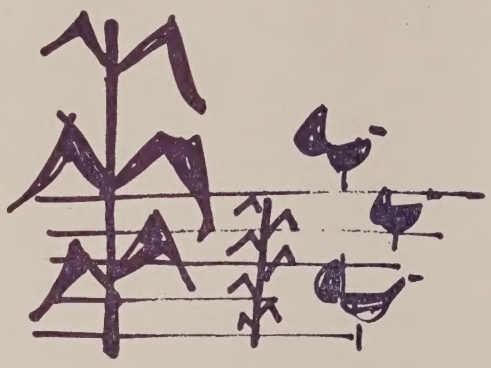
The signs of a growing economic crisis in Cuba are worrying those who fear that this could be used as an excuse for more drastic government economic action, with curtailment of freedom of the press and other civil liberties. Newspaper critics of Castro are already under severe pressures from union leaders and government spokesmen.

Due to disillusionment with previous attempts at democracy, there is not much public sentiment for an immediate restoration of free political activity and elections. While this is generally regarded as desirable in a few years, it is felt that the reform program should first be well launched.

Attacks on United States

There are differing views in Cuba on the reasons behind the sharp attacks on the United States and its policies. Admittedly, the military mission and arms supplied to Batista for years by this country were responsible for perpetuating his dictatorship and causing the death of many Cubans. This heritage of the past is difficult to overcome.

At present, there is widespread feeling that the American press has been unfair to the Castro government. Here again, there is no doubt that most U.S. newspapers overlooked the evils of the Batista regime, but hastened to criticize the flaws of Castro. It is believed generally in Cuba, and not without reason, that the effect of the economic reforms on U.S. business interests accounts for the difference.



The U.S. policy toward Batista, the attitude of the American press, the protests evoked by the economic reform program, and the fear of invasion or counter-revolution coupled with knowledge of strong anti-Castro elements in Florida, no doubt combine to produce the anti-U.S. attitude reflected in recent statements. However, individual Americans are treated courteously and the American people are not the objects of any popular antagonism in Cuba.

Castro and the churches

Apparently, the Catholic church is quite concerned about the present government. Reports in the Catholic press in the United States are very critical of communist influence and treatment of property under Castro. A special midnight mass held in Havana on a rainy night drew a larger crowd than had gathered for Castro at a daylight meeting sometime earlier. Many regarded this as a quiet demonstration of Catholic strength.

Castro and his government have acted in a friendly way toward Protestants. This, coupled with strong Protestant support for the revolution and its economic reforms has resulted in much favorable sentiment among Protestants toward Castro. However, part of the leadership is becoming more critical and concerned over recent developments.

U. S. policy toward Cuba

What should be the policy of the U.S. Government toward Cuba? Here churchmen can make a distinct contribution. The protests to Castro over seizure of American-owned property were to be expected. But, as of this writing, President Eisenhower and the State Department are showing wise and admirable restraint in their response to harsh attacks.

In view of unwise U.S. support of Batista, it behooves our government to be unusually patient and understanding. Our great national strength is best used with care and consideration for those less powerful. To adopt a hard or aggressive attitude toward Castro would be likely to solidify his position of leadership, to invite retaliation, to antagonize the Cuban people, and to incur criticism from other Latin American countries.

Time is needed in order to see what direction Cuba finally takes. In this writer's opinion, a substantial offer of economic aid to enable

the Cuban people to achieve a better life would not only be morally sound —it might well prove to be the course of action that would bring better understanding between our two nations and encourage more moderate internal developments in Cuba.—H.W.

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist leader and bishop of the Washington Area, asked in a recent address whether the Church was ready to carry the Gospel to inhabitants of other planets.

"Surely," said Bishop Oxnam, "God the Father Almighty did not devote all of his creative power to an unpopulated universe and did not place the climax of creation, which we believe is the human being, solely upon the earth."

Bishop Oxnam delivered the address at a week-long conference celebrating the 175th anniversary of Methodism in the United States. He said, "before another 175 years have passed, we will have conquered space and will have come to know the thinking, the culture, the dreams, the problems, the limitations of the people who populate the great planets of the universe."

He then suggested that God had created life on the planets other than earth and asked, "Is Methodism ready for the intellectual stretching necessary to re-examine its missionary program and to ask, 'Must the old command be revised to read, "Go ye into the universe and preach the Gospel to every creature"?' "

He went on to say, "How is the eternal known in Mars, in Venus, in Jupiter? Was the whole terrible enactment that we call 'Calvary' requisite for other beings to learn the meaning of 'Love so amazing, so divine' that it does demand 'soul, life and all'?

"Are the theological seminaries of The Methodist Church preparing men and women for the conversations and the conferences that are necessary as we seek to share the riches that are ours and to receive from others the riches that are theirs, to the end that we may come to know the father of all?

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

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"Is the Message that we are to speak to the universe a neat little set of dogmatic propositions which we in our limitations have worked out to answer the baffling problems that now confront us? Are there answers that we have never heard? Are we ready to hear them and act upon them if they appeal to the minds God has given to us?

"The limitations of nature will no longer prevent man from reaching the promised land," Bishop Oxnam said, "the fundamental question is the limitation upon our own selfishness. It is here that the message of the Gospel may well become a message of the universe."

New job opportunities open for Negroes

The President's Committee on Government Contracts headed by Vice President Richard M. Nixon and thoroughly supported by the staff of the Methodist Board of Social and Economic Relations made announcement of several significant breakthroughs in employment of Negroes.

Among the accomplishments listed are the following:

(1) One of the largest defense contractors has hired its first Negro clerical workers. They will work in the company's Fort Worth, Tex. plant.

(2) In Dover, Del., the International Latex company hired its first Negro employees and arranged for the recruiting of skilled Negroes in the future.

(3) There have been new job openings in Southern California, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, and border states where Negroes have had difficulty finding jobs above the menial task factory work level.

(4) In Greensboro, N. C., a well-known national company now employs Negroes for white-collar jobs in personnel and accounting departments. Negro production workers are being considered for upgrading for the first time.

Take another look at church-state in Spain

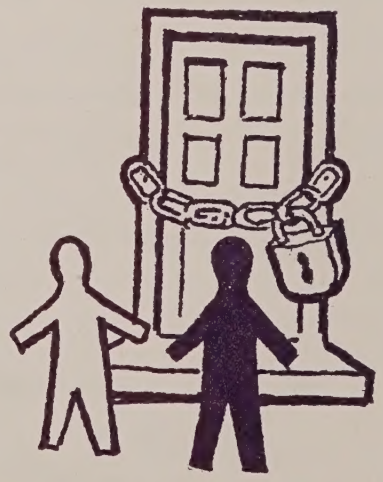
Church and state issues loom larger and larger on the horizon of important social issues as the weeks and months go by. Conditions of church and state in Spain give us pause to consider carefully what separation of church and state ought to mean in the United States.

Over the past ten years, time and again, Protestant representatives have requested fair treatment of Protestants within Spanish borders. But Spain's 30,000 Protestants have not enjoyed the kind of freedom guaranteed in article four of the Spanish Bill of Rights, which says:

"Nobody shall be molested because of his religious beliefs or the private practice of his cult." There are legal restrictions, however, that are well known. Examples:

(1) Protestants may not be elected to any public office, national provincial or municipal.

(2) Protestants shall not reach



the rank of officer in the Spanish armed forces.

(3) Protestants may not secure employment in the nursing profession.

(4) Protestants may not go to schools operated by their church.

(5) Protestants may not be married in their own church, since Protestant marriages are not recognized by law.

Seminaries and churches closed

The only Protestant seminary in Spain was closed without an announced reason February 23, 1956. Three months later more than 35,000 volumes of religious literature in the seminary library were confiscated. Protest by the British Government was to no avail.

Only last October a Spanish Baptist pastor was sentenced to two months in jail and fined for entering his own chapel, which is the property of the American foreign mission board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The chapel had received government authorization and was opened in 1949. Without any reason it was closed and sealed by police on July 17, 1954. With the passage of time seals were lost off the door and neighborhood children broke all the windows. In the summer of 1959 Pastor Nunez entered to begin making repairs. He was arrested a few months later. Since then no services of worship have been conducted.

To this very day, only 40 of the 250 Protestant places of worship throughout the country have police permits.

It is interesting to note that last October marked the consecration of a government approved Jewish Synagogue, the first since the Jews were expelled or forcibly converted to catholicism in the days of Ferdinand and Isabella.

It should also be remembered that to date the United States has given two billion dollars in aid to Spain in exchange for military bases.

The facts appear to reveal a clear and distinct case of infringement of minority rights according to the Spanish Constitution, let alone a flagrant violation of the concept of freedom of worship and religious liberty.

Union dues are not out of line

Traveling about the country and visiting with Church people the writer often hears questions raised about the exhorbitant fees that unions collect from their members as dues, assessments, and per capita taxes. Perhaps it would be in order to make a brief analysis of the situation.

The following figures are from a survey covering approximately 75 percent of the 112 AFL-CIO unions. Monthly dues for these unions averaged $3.50. Seventy-five per cent of the unions charged between two and five dollars per month. There were some unions charging about $6. (Some of this money was used for special pension funds and strike benefits.)

There was a tendency for craft-union dues to be higher than those of industrial unions, with Government employee unions showing the lowest average—$2.25 per month. The great

majority of international unions received for their treasury the per capita tax of between 50 cents to $2 a month. Only 18 of the 112 unions reported a higher per capita tax to run the national offices.

Funds for benefits

Constitutions of 41 unions require that part of the per capita tax be set aside for strike funds, 24 of them specified death benefits and 9 others earmarked a portion of the income for pension funds.

There was a wide range in the initiation fees but analysis of 78 unions showed the typical initiation fee to be $7.50.

There are, however, instances in certain unions, not of the AFL-CIO, where initiation fees run as high as $75. Fifty-one unions reported fees were $5 and under, the average for 15 others ranged between $5 and $10.

When one compares these figures with cost of lodge initiation and membership dues to various service clubs they are not out of line.

Benefits in case of strike

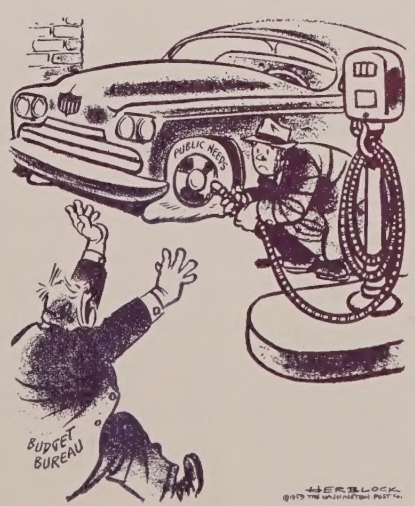
Forty-eight unions reported that they maintain special strike funds. Nearly half of the strike funds have been set up since 1949. The survey reveals that an increasing number of unions have adopted this practice. Thirty-five of the reporting unions say that their strike funds are specifically limited to payment of strike benefits, 69 paid strike benefits, 46 of them as a right to all strikers and 23 based on individual need. Where uniform benefits are paid the amount varies from $10 to $70 a week. The majority of the unions pay under $25. In some cases the amount of the benefit is based on the size of the workers family, health situations and family needs.

Investment regulations

Most of the labor unions have rules and regulations regarding the investment of the collected union monies. Most include the rule that monies must be invested in government securities of one kind or another, such as treasury bonds, war bonds, or government insurance securities. Forty-three unions have investments in saving banks, 34 in building and loan associations. Thirteen unions have invested in corporate stocks and bonds and 12 of the unions are permitted to handle real estate mortgages.

Several unions also reported investments in cooperative housing projects. Some make loans to companies in their industry to help maintain the firm in business and to preserve jobs for union members—ES.

"Great Scott, Man — That's Inflationary"



Investigation of drug market reveals startling data

Subcommittee Chairman Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, investigating the pharmaceutical market, has revealed some startling figures.

One of the most commonly prescribed arthritic remedies costing less than 12 cents per tablet to produce now appears on the domestic market at $2.98 per tablet.

It is sold by most of the dominant companies in the field.

In another area the markup on prescription drugs has been as high as 7,000 per cent. An American company imported a hormone drug from a French manufacturer at a cost of less than 12 cents a unit, then marketed it under a new trade name at a wholesale price of $8.40, with a retail price suggested to the local druggist of $14 per unit.

The subcommittee investigators have revealed the following facts:

(1) That leading drug firms employ armies of highly paid detail men to keep doctors posted on new products and to persuade them to prescribe drugs by trade name rather than generic name.

(2) Subcommittee investigators charged that certain key drug companies sewed up the market through cross-licensing agreements, then distributed on a strictly retail basis. All bulk sales were barred. The result—certain well known drug remedies for arthritic sufferers are dominated by three firms, Scherang, Upjohn and

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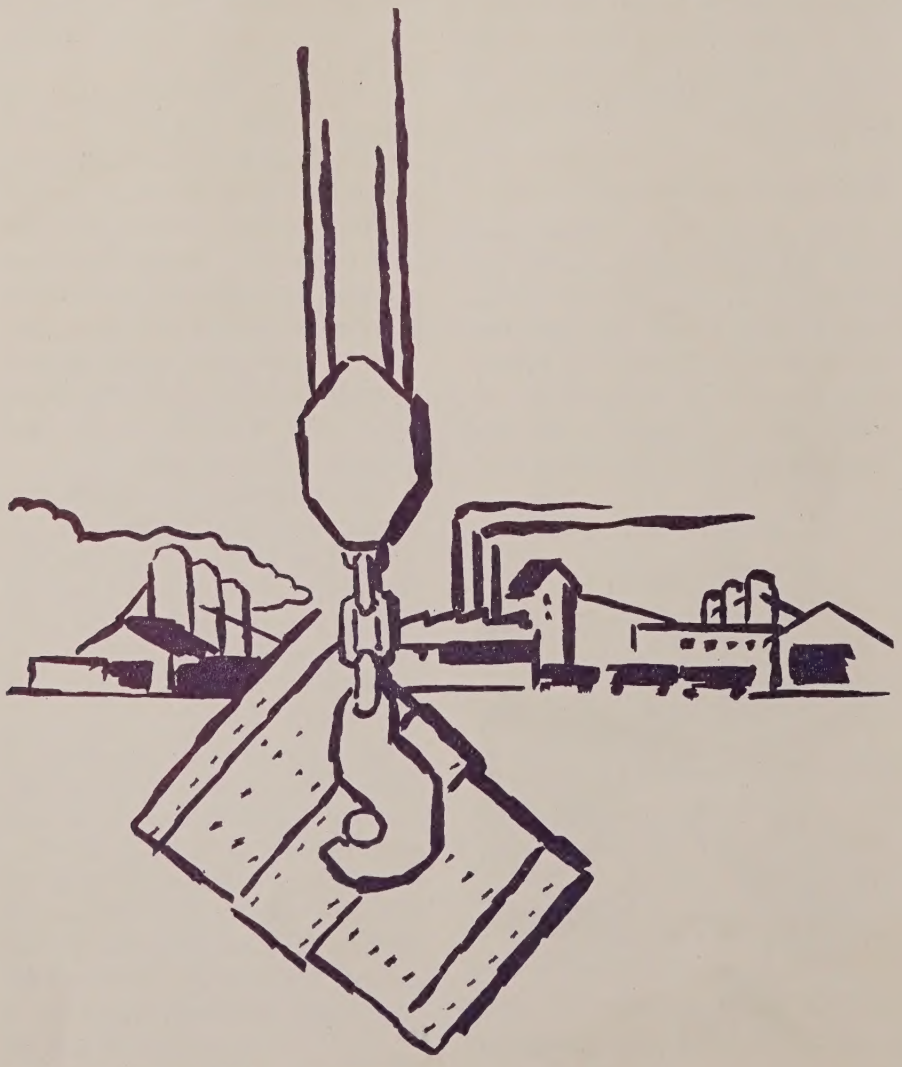
Merck. The nation's drug industry enjoys an after-tax profit averaging 21.4 per cent of investment. This is the highest profit rating of all industries surveyed by the Federal Trade Commission some weeks ago.

. . . did you know . . .

. . . that profits for 1,880 corporations in 1959 indicated an increase of 56 per cent over 1958? In the steel industry alone there was a profit increase of 198 per cent for the period.

. . . that the United States Steel corporation made a profit of $2,250 per worker during the first 6 months of 1959, or equal to $4,500 per worker on an annual basis? The fantastic profits of last year were not limited to the steel industry alone. General Motors corporation made a profit of $1 billion, 273 million during the first six months of the year.



Local church action

Contact commends the unanimous action of the Official Board of the Broad Street Methodist church, Mobile, Ala., under the leadership of the Reverend James A. Zellner, The Board passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the interests of The Methodist Church in social welfare spring from the gospel, and from the labors of John Wesley, who ministered to the physical, intellectual, and social needs of the people to whom he preached the gospel of personal redemption.

"In our historic position we have sought to follow Christ in bringing the whole of life, with its activities, possessions, and relationships, into conformity with the will of God.

"As Methodists we have an obligation to affirm our position on social and economic questions." . . .*from the Social Creed of the Methodist Church, 1956.*

WHEREAS, it is stated in the Social Creed of The Methodist Church (Item 6 under Section B of part III) "We stand for the right of employees and employers alike to organize for collective bargaining, protection of both in the exercise of their right, and the obligation of both to work for the public good."

In numerous other places in this Social Creed and in several of the miscellaneous resolutions adopted by the General Conference of The Methodist Church in 1956, our Church speaks out and takes positions corresponding to the aims and purposes of responsible American organized labor.

WHEREAS, world peace in our dangerous times is a prime concern of both The Methodist Church and American organized labor.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Official Board of The Broad Street Methodist church meeting in regular session on this the 6th day of January 1960,

(1) Our church shall seriously study the aims, programs, and policies of the labor unions operating in our area.

(2) We shall seek ways and means to bring about closer and active cooperation between this church and the labor unions in our area for the purpose of working together wherever possible for the betterment of the laboring man, his family, and his society and for encouraging and promoting more Christian labor-management relations.

(3) This church and its ministry shall in every manner at its disposal promote better understanding on the part of the general public of the aims, objectives, program, and policies of responsible organized labor.

(4) This church shall seek ways and means for active and enthusiastic cooperation with organized labor and any other group honestly seeking a just and Christian world peace in our times.

"We approve in principle the Coordinating Council proposal for uniting Methodism's three social action boards into one Board of Christian Social Concerns . . ."

With these words the General Board of Temperance climaxed four years of expanding service to Methodism's total social action concern. The plan it was approving, if passed by the General Conference, would mean that as of May 1960, and after 48 years of service, there would no longer be a General Board of Temperance of The Methodist Church.

Far from being a funeral dirge, the resolution passed by the board at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C., January 27-29, was a song of hope for the future.

As a division of the new General Board of Christian Social Concerns, temperance work would have a broader base and a more effective organizational structure than ever before, from national to local levels (see Dateline).

The vote was decisively in favor of the plan which the General Board of Temperance has helped to shape over several months.

In addition to its contribution in planning the new organization, the temperance board has made its staff and facilities increasingly available for cooperative social action ventures.

During the quadrennium the board has—

—expanded its successful regional training conferences to include sessions led by the Boards of World Peace and Social and Economic Relations. Responsibilities and costs are now shared three ways.

—merged publications and mailings with other boards to form the more economical *Contact* as a joint social action newsletter. *Contact* is edited and distributed by the temperance staff.

—produced through its communications department a series of materials prepared jointly for the local church

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TEMPERANCE

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commission on Christian social relations including a filmstrip, turnover chart, handbook, and assorted printed materials.

—arranged for the distribution and bookkeeping on all these items through its service department and business office.

—provided staff for participation in a long series of Interboard schools of instruction and joint meetings representing all the social action causes of Methodism.

This has not been a one-way street, of course. All three boards have shared in the cooperative ventures which have resulted in an increasing effectiveness for the work of all.

Meeting together as an Interboard Staff on Christian Social Relations, under the direction of the Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations, staff members of the boards have found an increasing number of opportunities for cooperative effort.

Revisions suggested

In approving the Coordinating Council's action "in principle" the Board of Temperance instructed its President, Bishop John Wesley Lord, to appear before the council, which has one more session scheduled before the General Conference.

He will ask the Coordinating Council to adopt several changes in its present plan, which the Board of Temperance feels will make the union a more effective one. Here they are:

(1) Three general secretaries, one for each division of the new board, rather than one over-all general secretary with three associates as proposed by the council. This is a major consideration as far as the temperance board is concerned.

In presenting this proposal Bishop Lord will wear two hats. He is also chairman of the Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations which supports the plan for three general secretaries (see Dateline).

(2) An addition to the council's legislation on financial arrangements, making it possible for funds vested in any of the predecessor boards to be conserved for the use of the appropriate division and for the specific purpose for which they were given. The General Board of Temperance holds donated trust funds which were set aside for temperance work over the years. These funds could be lost if they were not used exclusively for temperance work.

(3) Provision that each division and its secretary be made responsible for the administration of its own budget, including endowments and trust funds as mentioned above.

There has been some fear that the unification might mean a diminution in temperance work. The temperance board has urged the Council on World Service and Finance to provide increased funds to each division of the new board, so that work in all three areas will be strengthened. It has pointed out that the present World Service allocations are obviously inadequate for a dynamic social action program on a national scale.

(4) A change in the name of the temperance division from Temperance and General Welfare to Temperance, Health and Welfare.

Offer property to General Conference

The board also approved a joint resolution offering its 18 acre "Wire property" to the General Conference for the development of a Methodist center in the nation's capital.

The property is located in northwest Washington, D.C., directly across the street from American university, a Methodist institution, and next to Metropolitan Methodist church. The church's new Wesley Theological Seminary and School of International Service are nearby and the new Sibley hospital is within walking distance.

The board purchased the property in 1957 for a price of $1,500,000 when it appeared certain that the government would pre-empt the Methodist Building on Capitol Hill. Congress is still planning to use the property on which The Methodist Building stands, but has delayed action.

The Wire property is the only undeveloped tract of comparable size in the District of Columbia. Its value has risen steadily since the Board of Temperance purchase.

Joining in the resolution were representatives of the church's Council of Bishops, Council on World Service and Finance, Coordination Council and Board of Temperance.

All these agencies have now approved the draft of the resolution which commends the Board of Temperance for its action in purchasing the property, asks that the board be compensated by the General Conference for its investment and suggests that a charitable corporation owned by the church be established to plan and administer the property development. The corporation representing the agencies named above, each of the church's jurisdictions, and the Washington area, would report to succeeding General Conference sessions.

Other board actions

In addition to the above the board heard the following reports. Some of these will be printed in more detail in future *Contact* issues.

The board—

—considered the report of its Committee on Discipline Revision and voted to suggest several changes in the Discipline paragraphs relating to alcohol problems and temperance.

—approved a long range set of goals and action steps for the future in the areas of alcohol, gambling, exploitation of sex, tobacco, narcotics, and Sunday observance.

—heard major addresses by its President, Bishop John Wesley Lord, its General Secretary, Dr. Caradine R. Hooton, Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas and Major Clayton Wallace, executive director of the National Temperance League.

—held a legislative breakfast in the new Senate office building honoring senators and congressmen.

Congress ponders legislation of concern to temperance leaders

Awaiting action by members of the second session of the 86th Congress are a number of bills in the temperance field. Some of them have been pending for several years. Although most major temperance legislation is developed on local and state levels, national legislation is needed in certain fields.

Drinking aloft

The bills that are generally expected to be passed this session are concerned with ending the service and sale of drinks aboard aircrafts. H. R. 169 sponsored by Congressman Thomas J. Lane, (D-Mass.) and seven other similar bills have been introduced in the House. S. 1432 introduced by Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-S.C.) is the senate version of the bill.

Proponents of the bills stress the danger of passengers when any alcoholic beverages are served. In addition, airplanes have violated state laws by serving beverages over "dry" areas and requiring stewardesses under 21 to serve or sell liquor. Impressionable boys and girls are forced to travel as passengers in a "flying bar." Northwest Airlines started the practice in 1949. Since that time, all the major airlines have adopted the custom for some of their flights.

The sub-committee on aviation has recommended final action on the house bills to the full Interstate and Foreign Commerce committee. They now await consideration by the full committee chaired by Congressman Oren Harris (D-Ark.). No hearings have been held or set for the Senate bill this session although the 85th Congress did have two days of hearings.

The House acted favorably on similar bills in the 85th Congress but the Senate did not. Senator Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) is chairman of the Senate Commerce committee.

Alcoholic beverage advertising

Though Congressman Eugene Siler (R-Ky.) introduced his bill to ban alcoholic beverage advertising (H. R. 2221) in the first session of the 86th Congress, it is unlikely that a hearing will be held this year. Hearings were held in the 85th session on the Senate version.

No new bills have been introduced in the Senate this session. Proponents who are pushing for curbs on advertising observe that the most important thing needed is a demonstration of grass roots support from throughout the country.

Past hearings on similar measures have indicated that there is a tremendous latent moral indignation across this country. Many Americans

would like to end all alcoholic beverage advertising. This apparently has not yet been made sufficiently evident to members of the commerce committees.

Alcohol education

Several bills have been introduced which would provide federal grants-in-aid to states that would set up a program of alcohol education. The plan calls for the Federal government to match funds that are provided by states. Congressmen David King (D-Utah) and Henry Dixon (R-Utah) have introduced bills in the House. Senators Richard Neuberger, (D-Ore.), Frank Moss (D-Utah) and Wallace Bennett (R-Utah) are joint sponsors of S. 1394 in the Senate!

Congressman King has indicated he will seek a hearing on the House bills this session. The House bills were referred to the House Education and Labor committee and the Senate bills are pending in the Labor and Public Welfare committee. These bills would provide grants in tobacco education as well as alcohol education.

Commission on alcoholism

Congressman George Huddleston's (D-Ala.), bill calling for a Medical Advisory Commission on Alcoholism (H.R. 63) is still before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce committee. The Institute of Mental Health has recently commissioned the National American Association of Alcoholic Programs to do a million dollar research program in alcoholism. Although this is not exactly what Congressman Huddleston's bill asked for, it partially fills the bill.

S.J. 1 introduced by Senator Olin Johnston (D-S. C.), calls for a National Commission on Alcoholism. This is still pending before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare committee. The proposed commission would be given federal funds to make a nation wide study of alcoholism problems in our country and make suggestions for further constructive action on the problem.

Local and state legislation

"Legislation on the local level is perhaps more important than national legislation," states Major Clayton Wallace, executive director of the National Temperance League. Last year, considerably more local option elections on the liquor issues were won by anti-alcohol proponents than by the liquor trade.

At the present time, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are getting ready for referendums next year to decide if liquor can be sold in hotels on Sunday. This came as a result of enabling legislation passed by the state legislature.

The Virginia legislature has set hearings to consider whether the sell-

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ing of liquor by the drink will be allowed in the state.

Last year, Iowa and West Virginia served notice on liquor lobbyists that they have enough liquor problems and did not want to add more by allowing sales by the drink.

One strategy now being used by liquor lobbyists in various sections of the country is to seek changes in city liquor laws allowing bars or stores to stay open later and later each night. They argue the city will be more attractive for conventions. Thinking business men are aware that this is only a scheme to sell more liquor.

The District of Columbia will be giving consideration some time during this session of Congress to "implied consent" legislation to be added to the chemical test law already passed. Nine states already have this. The clause provides that persons granted driver's licenses are automatically consenting to submit to chemical tests for intoxications if involved in a traffic accident. Refusal to submit means temporary or permanent loss of license.

Gambling legislation

Congressman Paul Fino (R-N. Y.) is interested in providing more gambling opportunities. Fino wants support for a national lottery. He has introduced H. R. 4190 which would set up a federal lottery, supposedly to raise 10 billion dollars in revenue.

The bill has received little support but Fino is taking every possible opportunity to encourage fellow Congressmen to look favorably on his proposal.

Senator Kenneth B. Keating (R-N. Y.) has introduced a bill (S. 526) to prohibit the deduction of gambling losses from income taxes. This has been referred to the Committee on Finance. Similar bills are before the House Ways and Means committee introduced by Congressmen Coad (D-Iowa) and McCulloch (R-Ohio).

Although Pennsylvania has indicated approval of liberalized gambling laws, and several counties in New York state have legalized bingo, Southern Maryland citizens are getting fed up with the moral and economic drain of legalized slot machines. Steps are being launched by leading Maryland figures to outlaw the slots.

The interest in legalizing bingo in various states indicates that most petty gamblers do not realize that the bingo player has only a 210 to 1 chance of winning at bingo.

Pornography

Although a number of bills concerning obscene literature have been introduced in Congress, H. R. 7379 has the best chance of passage. Congresswoman Kathryn E. Granaham (D-Pa.), author of this bill, contends it does not involve censorship.

The bill would extend from 20 to 45 days the time needed for the Post Office department to prepare a case

against a suspected purveyor of pornography.

The measure has been passed by the House and is awaiting action by the Senate Post Office committee.

Tobacco legislation

Because of the lung cancer-tobacco smoking relationship, new interest in tobacco legislation has developed. Congressman John Blatnik (D-Minn.) has introduced a bill (H.R. 8261) calling for federal grants-in-aid to states setting up education programs in the public schools concerning the effects of tobacco on the body. The bill is pending before the House Committee on Education and Labor. Several other bills mentioned under the section on alcohol education also include education on the dangers in tobacco use.—B.R.

by *Caradine R. Hooton*

Should the General Conference confirm recommendations of the Coordinating Council, there will be a new Board of Christian Social Concerns for 1960-64.

Members of the General Board of Temperance voted affirmatively for a new "united endeavor." It can be effected by joining the Boards of Temperance, World Peace, and Social and Economic Relations, under a three-divisional plan of operation.

*Conditions under which this co*ordination might strengthen Methodism's convictions and effectiveness in the area of social concerns have been clearly defined. The Coordinating Council agreed that the relevancy of this new agency will be determined by (a) adequate financial support, (b) affluent Board membership, and (c) efficient staffing. Short of these needs, the proposal should be defeated.

*The Board of Temperance has ap*proved the new endeavor as a long step forward. It offers a real challenge for united church-wide crusade in positive Christian action along all fronts of Methodist responsibility. What may seem to subordinate some issues will actually result in added significance for all. Temperance, for example, will now receive positive backing by larger groups of capable leaders who will have more opportunity for creative action than ever before.

*In this "decade of decision" noth*ing shall be impossible for those who truly become His disciples. The Methodist Church has the program. It will be productive as we dedicate it to God's Plan.

. . . at your service

PAMPHLETS

A Plan for Pornography Control—order from the Service Department, 100 Maryland Avenue, N. E., Washington 2, D. C.; single copies free, $2 per 100.

The recent deluge of "glamour" magazines and motion pictures which overemphasize sex to pornographic extremes reveals a new and dangerous sickness in our society. Publishers and motion picture producers have found self-regulation impossible.

But deploring the situation is not enough. The church must provide constructive answers. There is a need for courses of study to help young people understand Christian attitudes toward sex and personality growth. There is a need for community action to eliminate the distribution and sale of pornographic literature, films and amusements. This "blueprint" gives some action possibilities.

Reprinted for wider distribution from January 15 issue of CONTACT.

Intercom—published by the World Affairs Center; free sample copies are available from the Board of World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

This periodical serves as a clearing house on information and activities in the field of world peace. The Center collects information on programs, periodicals, films and other materials which are currently related to international affairs.

General Social Action for Youth Work—a compilation of Christian Action teaching aids; the Board of Social and Economic Relations, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

A helpful publication, prepared by the Christian Action Council of Columbia, South Carolina, it deals with films and pamphlets especially suitable for youth.

The topics on which teaching aids, both visual and printed, are presented are 1) alcohol problems, 2) alcoholism, 3) citizenship, 4) community relationships, 5) courtship and marriage, 6) drug addiction, 7) highway safety and the individuals responsibility, 8) making moral decisions, 9) mental health, 10) social relationships, 11) tobacco, 12) vocation and 13) world peace.

The pamphlet contains suggestions as to how the materials might be used and in each case the place and source from which the materials are available is carefully and clearly given.

Weaponry, Technology, Science: Life or Death?—an address given by Dr. William C. Davidon, may be obtained from the Board of World Peace, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill.; 10¢ each, $1 for 12, $5 for 100.

Delivered at the 1959 North Central Regional Briefing Conference in Chicago, this speech is an examination of American traditions and history, applying them so that they will be appropriate to our new situation.

Dr. Davidon, a theoretical physicist at the Argonne National Laboratory, expresses the view that actions helping men to see that they cannot find security will tax every ability, insight and conviction if success is to be obtained.

The address is a reprint for wider distribution. It appeared in two parts in the February 1 and January 15 issues of CONTACT.

CALENDAR

Christian social relations events on the national, regional and annual conference level will be listed in the space below.

Suggestions for calendar items may be sent to the CONTACT editor.

February

16-19—Churchmen's Washington seminar, Washington, D. C.

16 — Rehabilitation of Alcoholics seminar, First Methodist church, New Ulm, Minn.

21—Christian Social Relations workshop, Grayling, Mich.

21-24—North Iowa conference series on Christian Social Relations; Cedar Rapids, Oelwein, Humboldt, and Cherokee respectively.

22-26—Washington Seminar, Wisconsin Conference Board of Christian Social Relations, for Methodists in Wisconsin Conference, contact your pastor.

23—Industrial Relations Conference, Board of Social and Economic Relations, East Peoria, Ill.

26-28—Methodist Youth Fellowship School of Alcohol Studies, North Mississippi Conference.

29—North Carolina Conference on Christian Social Concerns, joint project for the North Carolina Conference Social Action boards, St. Paul's Methodist Church, Goldsboro, N. C.

March

6—The Church's Ministry to Gainfully Employed Women, Rock River Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill.

11-13—Youth School of Alcohol Studies, New Mexico Conference, First Methodist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.

20-22—The Problems of People in an Industrial Society, MSM Seminar, Houston, Tex.

Dateline

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Each division of the new Board of Christian Social Concerns would develop a program of research, education and action in a number of fields. Here's the line up as it now stands in the Coordinating Council recommendation:

Division of Temperance and General Welfare

- alcohol problems
- addiction to injurious habits such as use of tobacco and drugs
- gambling
- pornography
- juvenile delinquency
- crime
- penal system and rehabilitation
- mental health and medical care
- problems of the aging
- population
- planned parenthood
- traffic safety

Division of Peace and World Order

- American foreign policy
- United Nations and related international organizations
- disarmament and nuclear weapon control
- space control
- foreign aid
- tariffs and trade
- immigration and naturalization
- military policy and conscription legislation
- conscientious objectors and the draft

Division of Human Relations and Economic Affairs

- race relations
- civil liberties
- public policy on education
- church and state
- population mobility
- civic responsibility
- urban redevelopment
- labor-management relations
- agriculture
- conservation
- government and private economic policy and practices
- technological change
- unemployment
- housing

The Coordinating Council recommendation also calls for the organization of a similar Board of Christian Social Concerns in each annual conference, a district director and committee of Christian Social Concerns and a required Commission on Christian Social Concerns in every local church.

In addition to the action reported above, the Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations, meeting in Washington, D. C., sent a request to the General Conference for inclusion of the new Board on the Interboard Commission on the Local Church and its Secretarial Council.

The commission also passed a General Conference resolution calling for

a required Commission on Christian Social Relations in every local church.

The Interboard Commission may go down in history as one of the few Methodist organizations willing to vote itself out of existence. In discussion, members agreed that the commission's functions would be fulfilled by the new unified board and therefore declined to set a future date of meeting.

For further information see the report of the Board of Temperance sessions, page 11.

The Methodist Television, Radio and Film Commission hopes to open a branch office in Los Angeles to exert a "constructive influence on mass entertainment."

The commission has asked for $30,000 annually for the proposed West Coast office. The request was made to the Methodist Council on World Service and Finance, Chicago, which, if it concurs, will submit it to the Methodist General Conference, meeting April 27 to May 7 in Denver.

If the General Conference approves the request, it is expected that the office will be opened soon afterward, said the Rev. Dr. Harry C. Spencer, Nashville, general secretary of the Television, Radio and Film Commission.

About 135 Methodist college students and youth, in two separate groups, are expected to visit New York City and Washington, D.C., in February to gain first-hand knowledge of the proceesses of international cooperation and national government.

The college students will participate in the eleventh annual Christian Citizenship Seminar of the Methodist Student Movement, February 14-20. The youth will take part in the annual United Nations-Washington Seminar of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, February 21-26. About 70 are expected in the student group and 65 in the youth group.

Cooperating with the MSM in sponsoring the student seminar are the Methodist boards of missions, education, temperance, and world peace, and the department of international affairs of the National Council of Churches.

The MYF seminar is sponsored by the Methodist boards of education and world peace in cooperation with the boards of missions and temperance.

Some of the high lights scheduled for the New York phase of the MYF seminar are vespers at Christ Church, Methodist, a tour of the United Nations building, briefing by UN personnel, and a visit to the Inter-church Center, where they will talk with Methodist Board of Missions leaders.

In Washington, the youth are scheduled to have interviews with senators and representatives, visit the Lincoln Memorial, U.S. Department of State, Soviet Union embassy, sessions of Senate, House, or Supreme Court, the Methodist Building, American University, and Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church.

A somewhat similar schedule is expected to be followed by the student seminar.